

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 06233 070648Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 OES-07
PM-05 NSC-05 ACDA-12 /079 W
-----032086 080416Z /62S

R 061623Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06233

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GW, BR
SUBJECT: FRG PRESS COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERA-
TION ACT OF 1978

REF: STATE 87926 (EXDIS)

1. BRASILIAN MISCONCEPTIONS OF PURPOSE AND IMPLICA-
TIONS OF NON-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 1978 AS DESCRIBED
REFTEL ARE SHARED BY WIDE RANGE OF FRG PRESS AND
PUBLIC. THUS RECENT EDITORIAL IN PRO-CDU FRANKFURTER
NEUE PRESSE STATES THAT:

... CARTER STICKS TO HIS GUNS REGARDING URANIUM
DELIVERIES FOR EUROPE. FORMER PROMISES NOTWITHSTANDING,
HE IS TRYING TO PRESSURE THE NUCLEAR PARTNERS OF THE
U.S., AND, WITH THE HELP OF THE NEW U.S. NON-
PROLIFERATION ACT, WRECKS THE GERMAN PROMISE TO SUPPLY
BRAZIL WITH A FULL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE. . . THIS
CHALLENGES THE CONTRACTUAL FIDELITY OF THE FRG, WHICH
CANNOT LET CARTER'S RIGOR INVALIDATE ITS SIGNATURE.
EVEN IF THREATENED WITH SUSPENSION OF URANIUM SUPPLIES,
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC CANNOT YIELD. . .

LEFT OF CENTER FRANKFURTER BUNDSCHAU WRITES:
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PAGE 02 BONN 06233 070648Z

PRESIDENT CARTER'S RUDE WAY OF PROCEEDING ON THE
QUESTION OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION APPARENTLY HAS
PROMPTED GREAT AMAZEMENT ON THE RHINE. OVER MANY
MONTHS BONN CHERISHED HOPE THAT THE U.S. HAS SWALLOWED
THE FRG'S CONTROVERSIAL TRANSACTION WITH BRAZIL. LAST
WEEKEND IT WAS CONFRONTED WITH REALITY. FOR CARTER

WILL TAMPER ALSO WITH THIS CONTRACT OF LONG STANDING.
HIS RUDENESS MIGHT BE TRACEABLE TO DOMESTIC
REASONS. RECENT POPULARITY TESTS HAVE BEEN SO
UNFAVORABLE THAT THE PRESIDENT IS TRYING TO MAKE
PREVAIL HIS IDEAS WITH THE GERMAN ALLY -- IDEAS WHICH,
AS SUCH MIGHT BE UNDERSTANDABLE. HIS WAY OF DOING SO
COMES CLOSE TO BLACKMAIL. THIS DOES NOT CREATE A
FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE AND MAKES REQUIRED AGREEMENT ON
KEY QUESTIONS MORE DIFFICULT.

PRO-SPD NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG'S JENS FEDDERSEN WRITES
THAT: WASHINGTON INVENTS TRICKS FOR WRECKING THE
GERMAN-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR TRANSACTION.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, FRG GOVERNMENT AND NUCLEAR
INDUSTRY OFFICIALS ARE, OF COURSE, MUCH BETTER INFORMED
ABOUT ACT. AFTER SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY
OFFICIALS, THEY BETTER UNDERSTAND ITS OBJECTIVES AND
IMPLICATIONS, AND, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE IN GENERAL NOT IN
AGREEMENT WITH OUR POLICY, THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO GET ON
WITH THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND WOULD LIKE THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY TO AGREE TO RENEGOTIATION OF OUR
AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN06233
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780151-1074
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780487/aaaacvxn.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 039e5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 87926
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3059539
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG PRESS COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERA- TION ACT OF 1978
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GE, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/039e5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014